



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/777,374	02/12/2004	Marie-Pascale Chagny	16356.843 (DC-05910)	4596
27683	7590	01/25/2005	EXAMINER	
HAYNES AND BOONE, LLP 901 MAIN STREET, SUITE 3100 DALLAS, TX 75202			BENENSON, BORIS	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2836	

DATE MAILED: 01/25/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Hk

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/777,374	Applicant(s) CHAGNY ET AL.	
	Examiner Boris Benenson	Art Unit 2836	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 August 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-12 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 13-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 August 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>6/18/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Art Unit: 2836

Detailed Actions

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

I. Claims 1-12, drawn to connector structure for connecting two orthogonal PCB, classified in class 439, subclass 66.

II. Claims 13-21, drawn to a combination (assembly) of plurality of connectors and PCB's and classified in class 361, subclass 56.

Inventions II and I are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05 (c)). In the instant case, the subcombination has separate utility such as connecting different electrical apparatus other than the combination as claimed, for example two orthogonal PCB's (35 U.S.C. 121).

The combination does not require the specific details of the subcombination and could use a connector with given impedance at the center of connector member and higher impedance at the ends.

Art Unit: 2836

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above, and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by different classification and recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

During a telephone conversation between examiner Larissa Z. Tsukerman and attorney of the case James Bell, on Friday, October 8, 2004 a provisional election was made without traverse to prosecute the invention of claims 13-21.

Affirmation of this election must be made by applicant in replying to this Office action. Claims 1-12 are withdrawn from further consideration by examiner (37 CFR 1,142(b)), as being drawn to non-elected invention. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48 (b) if one or more of currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim reminding in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a petition under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and fee required under CFR 1.17(1).

Art Unit: 2836

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 13-14 and 19-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mueller et al. (6,151,202) in view of Culley et al. (5,943,482). Mueller et al. disclose a method and a system of "Discharging Electrostatic Charge During Hot Card Insertion". The system (Fig.2) comprises a connector (212) with a guide, located in the housing and coupled to a sensitive circuit, wherein the guide discharges static energy to the ground due to an impedance of the guide read on connector that varies along its length. Upon initial insertion of a card into the guide initial contact of pad (250) with card guides (204) "would have an effective resistance to ground of 60K Ohms, and as each pair of conductive pads contact card guides 204, the equivalent resistance to chassis ground would drop accordingly to 50K, 40K 10K Ohms" (Col.5, Lines 36-40). Mueller et al. disclose that "invention relates to a method and system that allow gradual release of electrostatic energy when a circuit

Art Unit: 2836

card is inserted into an electronic system, such as a computer chassis but does not disclose a configuration of the computer and does not indicate what kind of static sensitive elements comprising the computer. Culley et al. teach a system and a method of an Expansion Card Insertion And Removal, wherein Culley et al. disclose that a contemporary computer comprises a microprocessor (Fig. 1, Pos. 14), a disk drive read on a storage device (11), cache (16) and system memory (20), bridge chip (26) and buses (22, 24, 28 and 31) that coupled all the elements of the computer read on an information handling system. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have use invention Mueller et al. to protect all static sensitive circuits of a computer including a microprocessor, a storage coupled to the microprocessor and other sensitive circuits disclosed by Culley et al.

Referring to Claim 14, the system of Mueller et al. includes a first region with equivalent resistance 10K Ohms and a second region with equivalent resistance 60K Ohms, which is greater, then the first impedance.

Referring to Claims 19-21, the notebook computer of Culley et al. comprises a microprocessor, a memory device and a bridge chip.

Art Unit: 2836

3. Claims 15-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mueller et al. (6,151,202) in view of Culley et al. (5,943,482) as applied to claims 13-14 and 19-21 above, and further in view of Bosze et al. (4,732,802). Mueller et al. (6,151,202) in view of Culley et al. (5,943,482) disclose all the limitations of Claims 13-14, as it was discussed above, but didn't disclose a kind of a material to be used for manufacturing resistive regions of the connector. The Specification is silent about the subject and doesn't provide any reason to conclude that same of the material more suitable than others. Bosze et al. teach a Cermet Resistive Element For Variable Resistor. Bosze et al. teach use of metal, alloy and carbon-filled polymer for creation of resistive elements. Bosze et al. teach and claimed "The resistive element of claim 29, wherein said resistive film is formed from a first carbon-filled polymer having a first conductivity, and wherein said islands /read on regions/ are formed of a second carbon-filled polymer having a second conductivity higher than said first conductivity" (Claim 30). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Mueller et al. (6,151,202) with teachings of Bosze et al. and include a metal, a metal alloy and/or polymer as

Art Unit: 2836


material for manufacturing regions of the connector, because such materials are widely available and well known.

Contact information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Boris Benenson whose telephone number is (571) 272-2048. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:20-6:00) First Friday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Sircus can be reached on (571) 272-2800 ext 36. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


BRIAN SIRCUS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

Boris Benenson
Examiner